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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This is in response to the Official Action mailed August 23, 2004. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Claim 21 has been amended to correct minor typographical errors contained therein. Claim 23 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's formal objections thereto, and to further define the invention over the art. No new matter has been added as a result of the changes made thereto.

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Potdevin et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is in error.

In this rejection, the Examiner points to Potdevin et al. as teaching an adapter to read and operate a Smart Card comprising a housing that receives a smart card and having a pinout arrangement to interface with a PCMCIA socket and a circuit that controls signal lines of the pinout to permit a controller to read and operate the smart card through the PCMCIA socket. Applicants agree with the Examiner's characterization of Potdevin et al.

In contrast, however, Applicants' invention of independent claim 21 requires an adapter that requires "a circuit adapted to control selected signals lines of said pinout arrangement to permit a Smart Card controller to read and operate said Smart Card through said PCMCIA socket." In other words, the invention of independent claim 21 provides an adapter that can receive a Smart Card and communicate with a Smart Card controller through a PCMCIA socket. This feature is nowhere disclosed or suggested in Potdevin et al. Indeed, Potdevin et al. discloses a Smart Card adapter to permit communication with a conventional PCMCIA reader through a PCMCIA socket. (See, for example, column 2, lines 30-39; column 5, lines 30-33; and column 6, lines 17-18.)

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Support for the invention of independent claim 21 is found, for example, in figures 2 and 3 of the instant invention. For example, the Smart Card adapter 18 can receive a Smart Card 16 and using conventional PCMCIA pinouts 84 control the pinouts 84 to be compatible with a Smart Card reader (for example, 34A and/or 34B in figure 3) comprised in an integrated controller 10. These features are nowhere disclosed or suggested in Potdevin et al., and thus, this reference cannot anticipate Applicants' invention of independent claims 21 and 22.

Claims 23-27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Potdevin et al. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is also in error.

The deficiencies of Potdevin et al. vis-à-vis Applicants' invention of independent claim 21 are discussed above in detail. Applicants' invention of independent claim 23 has been amended to require that the third circuit provides "communication between said Smart Card and a Smart Card controller and between said Smart Card and a bus controller logic using conventional PC card communication protocols." Thus similar to the arguments set forth above with respect to claim 21, claim 23 now requires that the adapter can provide communication between the Smart Card and a Smart Card controller, rather than a conventional PCMCIA controller as disclosed in Potdevin, et al. Claims 24-27 depend directly from Applicants' invention of independent claim 23, and thus must be read as incorporating the limitations of claim 23.

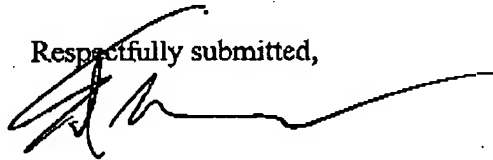
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection of claims 23-27 as being unpatentable over Potdevin et al. is in error, and should be withdrawn.

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Having dealt with all of the objections raised by the Examiner, it is respectfully submitted that the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance. Thus, early allowance is earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560. In the event any additional fees are payable, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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